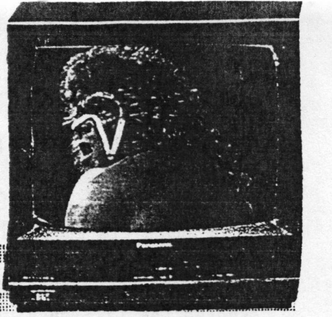
MATWATCH

16 Robin Hood Lane Jackson TN 38305

SUMMER SLAM SPECIAL EDITION

VOL. 3, NO. 9 AUG. 27-SEPT. 2



At Summer Slam

NO AFTERSHOCK: HOGAN WHIPS 'QUAKE; WARRIOR RETAINS WWF TITLE IN CAGE

PHILADELPHIA---In Las Vegas, it wouldn't have even had odds. Hulk Hogan defeated Earthquake John Tenta in 13:12 at SUMMER SLAM III before a sellout at the Spectrum Monday night. In a cage match, WWF heavyweight champion Ultimate Warrior retained his belt by escaping the fence at of his defense against Rick Rude.

HOGAN D. EARTHQUAKE (COUNTOUT)

This one was another where the rules went out the window. Twice, Dino Bravo and Bossman entered the ring but no DQ was issued. 'Quake wouldn't sell Hogan's slam early. Hogan finally scored with two clotheslines, a chop and a fist and Tenta still wouldn't drop. So, Hogan decks Jimmy Hart and Bravo at 4:08 and then kicks 'Quake out.

A 'Quake elbow scored a two-count at 5:27, then he stomped on Hogan's hand. Then, a Tenta Boston crab at 6:25 continued until Hogan's escape 40 seconds later. 'Quake missed a crash from the top at 7:50 but fell on top of Hogan in a slam attempt at 8:15. Hogan kicked out on two from a 'Quake powerslam at 10:10. Tenta followed with two straight earthquakes but Hogan escaped on two. Superman comeback time. Hogan shook the head, waved the finger and was ready for the win when Hart ran in. Hogan slammed Hart into 'Quake and both fell out. Hogan then slammed Tenta into a ringside table and rolled back in the ring as 'Quake was counted out at 13:12. Bravo tried to jump Hogan and 'Quake tried to choke Hulk but Bossman bashed Dino with a chair and clobbered 'Quake three times with the steel, then chased them off with the nightstick. MATCH RATING: DRAW. Lots of crowd heat but an average, textbook Hogan match without even a pinfall.

WWF TITLE: WARRIOR D. RUDE (Cage)

They did as poor a job building to this match as the NWA did prior to Sting-Flair at Philadelphia. Again, so much emphasis was on Hogan-Earthquake that this one took a clear back seat.

Rude attacked Warrior at the top of the cage but Warrior rallied for a quick elbow. Rude tried to escape at 2:15. Warrior pulled him down and Rude came away juicing from the blow against the steel. After several exchanges and restholds, Rude scored with a Rude Awakening neckbreaker at 5:40. Instead of trying to escape or scoring a pinfall, he decked Warrior with a 15-foot high punch at 6:03 but missed a second at 6:30. Warrior missed the door at 6:50. Rude scored a 2-count at 7:08 and then tried to escape with Heenan trying to pull him through the door. But Warrior pulled hard enough the other way to expose Rude's fanny for America. Warrior dragged Heenan in and atomicdropped him out.

Rude still was on the offensive but at 9:00, Warrior went into his war dance and scored four consecutive clotheslines and military pressed Rude. At 9:40, Warrior began the climb over the cage and hit the floor at 10:04 to retain the championship.

On the telecast, there wasn't even enough time to have a long post-match celebration (this match was clearly the anti-climax to the previous one) and Vince made a quick plug for the SURVIVOR SERIES and...bang...the show was over. RATING: RESTHOLD-PLUS. The match last year was much better and their SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT match last month showed the two off much better than this one.

KERRY UPSETS HENNIG; HARTS CAN DEMOLITION

PHILADELPHIA----It was babyface night for championships at SUMMER SLAM III as Kerry Von Erich upset Curt Hennig for the WWF Intercontinental heavyweight title in a lackluster 5:09 and the Hart Foundation, with an assist from The Legion of Doom, took two out of three falls from Demolition in 14:21 to regain the WWF tag team championship.

I-C TITLE: VON ERICH D. HENNIG

Not much here other than a title change and certainly not a classic. Kerry scored with a quick flurry, ending with an over-the-top clothesline at 2:26.

Hennig rallied for a sleeper at 4:04 and began punching Kerry. But Von Erich rallied for a boomerang into the post and applied the Fritz claw, following with the tornado punch and the pin at 5:09. RESTHOLD.

WWF TAG TITLE: HARTS D. DEMOLITION

Demo took the first fall when Brian Adams (Crush) put the Veg-O-Matic on Bret Hart at 6:18. The match was evened in 3:50 of the third fall when Demo was disqualified as Crush broke up a certain pin after a heart attack by lifting ref Dave Hebner away from the third count.

In the final fall, six two-counts were scored and Bill Eadie (Ax) sneaked under the ring and switched places with Adams in full view of the oblivious Hebner. But The Legion of Doom rushed to ringside to drag Eadie away when he switched back. Bret then clotheslined Crush over Jim Neidhart's back and won back the titles for the Harts at 4:03. DRAW-PLUS...Bret was tremendous.

SUMMER SLAM SCOREBOARD

POWER & GLORY D. ROCKERS: Much was made of Sean Michaels' knee injury (a rare WWF truth) and Hercules attacked Michaels before the bell rang (a pay-per-view cliche). Despite a rally by Marty Jannetty and one double dropkick, the heels scored the fall on Michaels at 5:01 and Sean was stretchered. DRAW....good early flurry but crowd heat went in spurts.

SHERRI MARTEL D. SAPPHIRE (Forfeit): After four plays of "American Dream," Sapphire doesn't show & Rene Goulet tells the ref Sapphire isn't in dressing room. After a 30-second countdown, Sherri wins by forfeit. In a dressing room interview, Dusty says Sapph disappeared after they arrived at the Spectrum & a search is on for her. BOMB.

WARLORD D. TITO SANTANA: Vince obviously wanted Warlord to get a win. Tito's 3 dropkicks dropped 'Lord at 1:00 but Warlord rallied to slam Santana into post at 2:26. Tito came back for flying forearm at 4:48 but 'Lord put his foot on the ropes at 4:48. Tito missed another flying move, Warlord forward powerslammed Tito for the pin at 5:30. BOMB-PLUS.

JAKE ROBERTS D. BAD NEWS BROWN (DQ): Absolutely horrible match. Almost every Bad News pay-per-view event is a worst match candidate and this was no exception. Mostly stalling and poor brawling. He hit Jake with a chair at 2:07. Ref Bubba Bossman warned BNB but he clobbered Jake with steel again at 4:46 to get the DQ. After an argument, BNB attacked Bubba from behind but Jake ran Bad off with Damien. BOMB.

BROTHER LUV W. SGT. SLAUGHTER: Sarge gives Bruce the proverbial hug. Vince should have ordered this one cut in half. The 8-minute seg dragged interminably and unless the audio mix was bad, the crowd simply didn't care. Sarge tried hard to play the Commie-hater but no reax came at all. Maybe we'll get Boris Malenko for this segment next year. BOMB.

DRESSING ROOM: At this point, a Sean Mooney interview with Mr. Fuji is interrupted by a latebreaker from Gene Okerlund but Sapphire dashes right by Gene's mike.

JIM DUGGAN/NIKOLI VOLKOFF D. ORIENT EXPRESS: Duggan & Volkoff sang GOD BLESS AMERICA worse than Roseanne Barr sang THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER, enough to make Kate Smith turn over in her grave. O Ex make the cliche pre-match attack but Hacksaw & Nick double atomic drop Sato/Tanaka. But when Sato scores off the top on Volkoff, Nick is in trouble. Duggan tags in at 2:16. Jim cleans house and for the first time on WWF TV, does his old UWF stomp. Volkoff tosses out Sato and Duggan 360 clotheslines Pat & pins him at 3:21. RESTHOLD-PLUS...actually had more action than any recent Duggan match.

SAPPHIRE ANGLE: Sapphire won't come out of dressing room despite Dusty's pleas. After Randy Savage & Dusty are in the ring, Ted DiBiase (who earns a PILEDRIVER for his outstanding effort) reveals he has "bought" Sapphire, who arrives with permed hair and a WWF travel bag full of cash).

RANDY SAVAGE D. DUSTY RHODES: As Dusty goes after Sapphire, Randy attacks Dusty in the aisle. Dusty rallies for a set of elbows at 1:40 and nearly nails Sherri, who enters the ring to distract him. With the ref running Sherri out, Randy nailed Dusty with Sherri's purse and pinned him at 3:18. The crowd cheered wildly for Randy. As Sean Mooney is being castigated by DiBiase behind the arena (after Virgil and Sapphire get into his limo), Dusty runs out after them but the limo drives off and Dusty looks like the little kid at the end of the movie SHANE and the same as he did the night Barry Windham went over to the Horsemen. MATCH: BOMB-PLUS. ANGLE: POWERSLAM.

SLAMS & JAMS

Hogan's new trimmer figure really showed in this one. Even his neck is thinner....If there's any doubt the Big Ball of Cholesterol (Dusty) has become the Maalox Moment of professional wrestling, this was it. The brief match was awful. And if the Philly crowd's joy for Randy was any example, the post-match angle didn't get any sympathy for Dusty....Bet on them saving a Hogan pin on Earthquake for a SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT in the fall or for THE MAIN EVENT. At least it was more competitive than with Zeus last year....The show was fast-paced but overall, the match quality was worse than any recent WWF show. But the crowd got what they came for: to see Hogan & Warrior win and they got a couple of extra title changes in the process, one of them with a clean pin.... Overall, except for the crowd heat in the final two, this reminded me more of an old Monday night at Madison Square Garden show on USA in the early '80s....Vince & Piper were both too obnoxious and too hyper in the first hour. Piper finally grew more insightful as the evening progressed.

BEST LINES - (all Piper except the final): 1. Vince McMahon (on Slick) "What's he gonna do with the shoe?" (RP) "Chemical warfare." 2. (on Heenan) "He may know a lot about money but what does he know about wrestling?" 3. (on Hennig) "He has the perfect girl friend. She has perfect hair all over her body." 4. "I'm not gonna stoop to calling Santana Taco Bender, even though he drops a lot of gas." 5. (on Volkoff) "He changes his heart as often as he changes his underwear." 6. (on Volkoff/Duggan duet) "Sounds like dinner was late at the dog pound." 7. "Maybe Dusty's getting a little rusty when it comes to women." 8. Ultimate Warrior: "You know why Bobby Heenan and Rick Rude remind me of the Liberty Bell? One is cracked and the other is a ding-dong."

STRONGEST COMMENT - Ted DiBiase: "Tonight, Rhodes, I have bought your humiliation!" (He really did!)

BEST QUESTION - Piper (on Sherri): "Is that paint on her face, or stretch marks?"

DREADED GLITCH AWARDS - 1. Tape slow getting up to speed on Bossman's music. 2. Director heard cueing "fade the music" on "American Dream." 3. DiBiase's mike clipped.

MATWATCH 25 SCALE

CROWD ENTHUSIASM	2.9
ANNOUNCING	3.3
TOTAL PRODUCTION	4.4
QUALITY OF MATCHES	2.0
OVERALL EXCELLENCE	2.6

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

"FEVER" II OUTSHINES ORIGINAL

UTICA NY---SUMMER SLAM FEVER, the World Wrestling Federation preview of last Monday's pay-per-view event became the first cable wrestling special in which a repeat airing drew higher ratings than its original showing.

FEVER's Monday night airing Aug. 20 in the usual PRIME TIME WRESTLING slot on USA Cable network drew a 3.7 rating and 6.0 share of the audience, up one-tenth of a point in both rating and share from the Sunday airing.

Though down from the record 4.1 rating of the Aug. 6 PTW edition, the Monday FEVER posted a 23% ratings increase over the previous week's PRIME TIME edition.

ORNDORFF GIVES NWA NOTICE; COOLEY TO SUB IN TAGS

ATLANTA----Former National heavyweight champion Paul Orndorff has announced his departure from the National Wrestling Alliance but is still expected to make his scheduled date against Stan Hansen at the Sept. 5 CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS.

Orndorff, who returned to the NWA after a two-year layoff from his WWF career, apparently told executives in Atlanta of his plans last week. As part of the "Dudes with Attitudes" gang, Orndorff had been expected to get a shot at Arn Anderson's NWA TV title.

Interviews are already being cut for local TV inserts for former Continental champion "Wildcat" Wendell Cooley as a sub for Orndorff as Junkyard Dog's partner in scheduled tag matches against Anderson and Mark Callous. No specific reason was given for Orndorff's departure but a key insider simply stated "Mr. Wonderful" was "fed up."

"POWER HOUR" GETS BOOST: PAUL E. BACK AS CO-HOST

ATLANTA---NWA manager Paul E. Dangerously, who returned to the promotion in April as co-host of the NWA POWER HOUR and was unceremoniously dumped, along with most heel commentators, four weeks later, returns as Jim Ross' Friday night broadcast partner this week on TBS.

Dangerously, who originally teamed last year with Lance Russell and later Ross on some highly-rated editions of NWA MAIN EVENT, is expected to deliver what has been termed "outrageous" intros. In his return week, he tells viewers in the show open: "I got my show back! I got my show back!"

The 24-year-old manager of the NWA's Mark Callous spent most of Wednesday through Friday shooting special segments in metropolitan New York for the WPIX edition of NWA wrestling.

With the exception of three recent Sunday night special editions during the GOODWILL GAMES, the POWER HOUR---in its regular Friday night slot, has been languishing in the ratings, averaging only a 1.7 in its last six Friday outings.

LIZ POFFO GETS "MOST BEAUTIFUL" VOTES IN POLL

RADNOR PA----Kathie Lee may have campaigned her way to the top but Miss Elizabeth (Liz Hewlett-Poffo) picked up support in the recent TV GUIDE magazine Most Beautiful Woman on TV viewer poll.

In the voting, Kathie Lee Gifford (REGIS AND KATHIE LEE) openly solicited phone-in votes on her daily talk show and trounced Jaclyn Smith, her nearest competitor with 17,796 votes to 3,603.

But in comments published by TV GUIDE in the Aug. 25 issue, reader James Jagiello of Forest Hills NY wrote: "How about Miss Elizabeth or Sapphire or Sensational Queen Sherri of the World Wrestling Federation?"

TV GUIDE editors reported Liz receiving two call-in votes but added, "Frankly, we think these wrestling managers sound like women only a Hulk could love."

Other Voices

ATLANTA WRITER BARBERS THE RING

(ATLANTA CONSTITUTION editorial writer John Head recently esssayed pro wrestling in a column. We share it with you here.)

The barber shop I go to every two weeks or so always has the television going on Saturday mornings. And the TV is always tuned to any professional wrestling the tube has to offer. Thank goodness for that. Otherwise, I'd miss out on important world event and social trends.

Allow me to explain. The world is so overwhelmed by information that the currency called knowledge has been devalued as often as the Mexican peso. People wonder if anything is worth knowing any more.

My search for a painless way to keep informed has taken me to the mat. I've found that professional wrestling is more than hammerlocks and sleeper holds, Texas grudge matches and Hulkamania. It is truly a window on the world.

For example, there is a "Russian" wrestler who had been a bad guy for years. Fans would boo at the mention of his name. He has become a good guy. During a recent wrestling show, he stood in the middle of the ring holding up the Soviet and American flags while a pack of boy scouts led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. The fans gave the Russian a standing ovation. That's how I learned the Cold War was really over.

Then there is the matter of black wrestlers. I remember when there were none in the South. When they started to appear, it often was as walking racial stereotypes.

Things are different now. It seems a lot of black wrestlers are following Michael Jackson's example and becoming crossover acts with a vengeance. There are times when skin color seems to be the only thing that distinguishes them from other grapplers. In fact, one of the "blackest" wrestlers around today is one Dusty Rhodes (The American Dream). The guy is white but he talks blacker than black.

That is how pro wrestling confirmed for me that some segments of American society have moved beyond racial tolerance

(Continued on Page 4)

WARRIOR CAN'T DOMINATE IF HOGAN'S STILL KING

Simple, common sense headline, right??? Despite all of the wrestling media's speculation over how the Ultimate Warrior is already "a bomb," as one leading industry insider told me recently, or how Hulk Hogan will automatically regain the WWF world belt at the next WRESTLEMANIA, here's one vote cast that Jim Hellwig's problems at becoming the dominant character within the WWF are largely beyond his control.

True, when the matchup on a pay-per-view show between an alliance's world champion and his top challenger is not even considered the card's topliner, eyebrows have to be raised as to whether the standardbearer is caving under the spotlight.

Steve
Beverly

I've heard even the most ardent WWF supporters proclaim to me Hellwig's months as WWF champ are fragile. Yet, here's a voice from one never an admirer of the Warrior's actual wrestling ability which says panic should not set in.

I see three key factors as to why The Ultimate Warrior as champion has not been the overwhelming success as The Ultimate Warrior, rising challenger:

1) MARKETING MISTAKES. And this surprises me from the masters of marketing in this industry. It was the proper move to take the Warrior off of TV (except for SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT) as an active wrestler in the same way the WWF did with Hogan and, in 1988-89, Randy Savage (and as the NWA should with Sting and Lex Luger). But in the first four weeks after the torch was passed at WRESTLEMANIA, with the exception of one runout to his indistinguishable theme music, the Warrior became a recluse on TV. Not until the "Amanda Ultimate Warrior" BROTHER LOVE segment seven weeks later was there a true effort to humanize this guy. But I'm not sure Titan really capitalized on that.

2) HOGAN'S SHADOW INESCAPABLE: Almost from the moment of Jesse Ventura's proclamation, "Maybe Hulkamania will live forever," at the end of WRESTLEMANIA, the dominant focus of the WWF has been on building the Hogan-as-legend image and it has come at the expense of developing The Ultimate Warrior as a new torch carrier. It's almost a repeat of the reaction of many boxing fans after Joe Frazier became the first man to defeat Muhammad Ali in 1971; yet, Ali declared himself "the people's champion" and a lot of fans bought it and never accepted Frazier. So much effort has been put into the Hogan-Earthquake injury angle, any spotlight on the Warrior has been secondary. It's as if Hogan never lost the belt.

3) WARRIOR BEAT HOGAN: And despite the legion of younger Warrior fans, it may be easy to forget and difficult to estimate the numbers of child/adolescent Hogan fans who weren't able to accept Hogan losing to Warrior. I've been told by a number of adults of genuine emotional traumas experienced by their kids over Hogan's loss. It's a parallel to the early career of Jack Nicklaus. He received hate mail and was actually booed at the Masters in the 1960s because he began regularly beating the people's favorite, Arnold Palmer. Or to the kind of bashing Hank Aaron often took for breaking the record of a legend such as Babe Ruth. In the character fantasy world of pro wrestling, none of this is Jim Hellwig's fault.

4) WRESTLING, IN GENERAL, HAS CHANGED SINCE 1984: The Ultimate Warrior does not benefit, as did Hogan, from becoming a dominant star when pro wrestling was being remarketed and refocused for a homogenous, national audience and so much seemed original. Broad exaggerations of character are no longer original---and with the exception of a Curt Hennig and scattered others, the overall supporting cast in the WWF is weaker today than in its early growth years. The wrestling fan is much more selective in what he or she pays to see than when everything McMahon did seemed to revolutionize the sport. And the advent of the pay-per-view show has virtually obliterated the average house show as a draw, even for Titan.

Plain and simple, Hogan was an original and cannot be duplicated by anyone. The Ultimate Warrior cannot be and should not be expected to be Hogan. Unfortunately, that's the slot a lot of people, including wrestling writers, have expected him to fill and, instead, he has to carve his own niche. Much as the Dallas Cowboys were patient with Tom Landry to build a winner in the 1960s and '70s after some disastrous early years, Titan should show equal patience with Hellwig as a draw. He'll never have the adequate opportunity as long as Hogan's shroud is still around but it's much too early to write this guy off as an abominable failure. Again, the password is patience.

OTHER VOICES (Continued from Page 3)

That is how pro wrestling confirmed for me that some segments of American society have moved beyond racial tolerance to casual acceptance of a blurring of the once rigid racial lines.

Finally, I've learned something from the way wrestlers look these days. It used to be that the bodies that stepped into the ring for the Saturday night cards at the City Auditorium featured enough spare tires to outfit an 18-wheeler. Any talk of an awesome physique was in reference to Haystacks Calhoun, whose favorite tactic was to haul his 400-plus-pound body to the top rope and jump down on his hapless opponent.

These days, wrestlers generally look and act like body builders. They flext their muscles and preen before the cameras. They call themselves Jesse "The Body" Ventura and Ravishing Rick Rude. They love themselves and their fans loved them for it. This alerted me to the fact that society's health and fitness consciousness has drifted into the shallow water of narcissism.

Let's face it: the world is changing too fast; our attention span is too short. We've squeezed TV commercials down to 15 seconds. Somebody decided three minutes was too long to wait for oatmeal on a winter morning and came up with microwave oatmeal.

So don't waste your time watching 60 MINUTES or MACNEIL-LEHRER trying to figure out what matters among a zillion current events. Do what I do. Climb up in that barber's chair, ask for a light trim and watch wrasslin'.

TV TEMPO

Aug. 20-26

(WWF/USA) - [SUMMER SLAM FEVER]: Demolition Smash d. Jim Neidhart by holding onto ropes but Anvil decks Smash w. title belt until Crush/Ax backjump Neidhart and lay him out; Kerry Von Erich d. Black Bart; Warlord d. Pez Whatley; (SEGMENT) Ultimate Warrior; (REPLAY) Earthquake injures Tugboat; (BRO. LUV) Hogan & Jimmy Hart & after Hart's insults, Hogan kicks Jimmy's butt; Jake Roberts d. Mike Sharpe; Curt Hennig d. Ronnie Garvin; Orient Express d. Shane Douglas/Sonny Blaze; Jim Duggan d. 'Quake when Dino Bravo runs in but Hogan saves w. 2x4; Other winners: Power & Glory. DRAW-PLUS.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Hart Foundation d. Chris Duffy/Jim Berry; Ted DiBiase d. Mario Mancini; Hennig d. Scott Colton; SEGMENT: Sapphire gets another gift; Orient Express d. Shane Douglas/Jim Thomas. RESTHOLD.
[SUPERSTARS]: Dusty Rhodes d. Dale Wolfe; (UPDATE) 'Quake injures Tugboat; Ax/Crush d. Mancini/Berry; (SS REPORT) Full card rundown; Rick Rude d. Mike Pocari; (BRO. LUV) Hogan announces Big Bossman will be in his corner at S. SLAM; Von Erich d. Bob Bradley. RESTHOLD.

(PRO WRESTLING '90) - Nick Busich d. The Sheik; (From 5-STAR): Robin Smith/Sam Houston d. Snake Thompson/Angelina; (CLASSIC): AWA Battle Royal w. Larry Zbyszko winning belt; Billy Black/Mr. Wrestling d. Chief Little Bear/Allen Horne; ANGLE: Tim Dix begs Black/Mr. W to take him back as manager & Black kicks Dix out of ring; Bugman Michaels d. Eliminator; Royal Family d. Eddie & Doug Gilbert by DQ. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: Nasty Boys d. Tim Parker/Scotty Williams; Lex Luger d. Tony Burton; (WRAPUP) Black Scorpion interview; Mark Callous d. Dave Diamond; Hector Guererro d. Buddy Lee Parker; Big Van Vader d. Pat Rose; Brad Armstrong d. Bob Holly; (REPLAY) Horsemen-DWA showdown from last week; Sid Vicious d. Dave Stoudemeire. BOMB-PLUS.
[NWA PRO]: Armstrong d. Mike Thor; Junkyard Dog d. Bill Ford; Callous d. Allen Kenzie; Stoudemeire d. Stan Hansen by DQ; Rock & Roll Express d. Barry Horowitz/Mark Kyle; Freebirds d. Parker/Williams; DANGER ZONE: Paul E. w. Sting & Scorpion interview. BOMB-PLUS.

(USWA/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Skip Young d. Mike Davis by DQ when Kevin Dillinger runs in; [RECAP]: USWA's 1st year; (S. TITLE) John Tatum d. Bill Dundee w. chain during ref bump; Angel of Death d. Kevin Von Erich by countout; Toni Adams d. Jeannie Clarke by DQ & strips Jeannie after Percy Pringle runs in. Chris Von Erich saves but Steve Austin runs in & Austin/Percy spike piledrive Von Erich before Chris Adams saves w. chair. RESTHOLD.
[BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: Kowabunga/Ken Wayne d. Twilight Zone; Jeff Gaylord d. Ben Jordan; Tony Anthony d. Keith Haynes; Jerry Lawler/Dundee d. Keith Eric/Deuce Mason; (USWA TAG TITLE) Brian Lee/Don Harris d. Rex King/Joey Maggs; (From MID-SOUTH) Lee/Harris d. Snowman/Jeff Jarrett. RESTHOLD.

(LPWA) - [Syndication]: (LPWA TITLE) Susan Sexton d. Medusa Miceli 2-3 falls. RESTHOLD-PLUS. [Cable]: Heidi Lee Morgan d. Bad Girl; Medusa Miceli d. Black Venus; Misty Blue Simmes draw vs. Judy Martin. RESTHOLD.

(AWA/ESPN) - [Key Match]: (AWA TITLE) Larry Zbyszko d. Harley Race. NO RATING OFFERED.

(ICW) - Hurricane/Cyclone d. Wild Bunch; Chris Michaels d. Destroyer; Vic Steamboat d. Southern Jet; Super Duper Mario Mancini d. Mike Fortune; Frank Angel d. Joe Cruel; Dynamic Duo d. Equalizers. BOMB.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - Astro de Oro/Angel Azteca/Anibal d. Pirata Morgan/Angel Blanco Jr./Masakre 2 straight falls by DQ when Masakre unmasks Anibal; (NATL. 6-MAN TITLE) Leono/Tigro/Pantro d. Danny Boy/Lasser/Robin Hood 2-3; El Dandy/El Satanico/El Rayo de Jalisco Jr. d. Cien Caras/Mascara Ano Dos Mil/M.S. Uno (Pablo Fuentes) 2-3 by DQ; (HAIR MATCH) Ringo Mendoza d. Scorpio 2-3 falls; (CLIPS) Lo Isilito: Lucha Callejera; Un Leyenda: Gran Marsalla; MSI (Funetes). POWERSLAM.

(IWA) - Denny Brown d. Lou Perez by holding ropes; Terminator draw vs. Sunny Beach; Cousin Luke d. Jules Strongbow by DQ when Larry Cameron runs in. Kevin Von Erich/Moondog Spot save; Spot d. Al Green; Ivan Koloff d. Steve Keirn; Cameron d. Derrick Dukes w. steel object. RESTHOLD.

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale.

(CNWA) - Johnny Smith d. Akam Singh; Bill Jodoin d. Don McCullough by DQ; Sumohara draw vs. Len St. Clair; Ron Ritchie/Ballplayer draw vs. Bowlers. BOMB-PLUS.

(WINDY CITY) - (W. CITY TAG TITLE) Golden Boys d. Steve Regal/Col. DeBeers; ANGLE: Capt. Fantastic introduces Honeybee as his new manager. BOMB.

(USWA/WMC) - Doug Gilbert (masked)/Anthony d. T.D. Steel/Ken Raper; (MID-SOUTH) CAGE: Lawler/Dundee/Austin Idol d. Anthony/Eddie & Doug (who has head shaved); ANGLE: Eddie says he rubbed Granny Gilbert's Hair Elixir on Doug's head and Doug unmasks wearing bad toupee; (MID-SOUTH) LOSER LEAVE: Dirty White Girl d. Tessa; ANGLE: Lawler intros new valet, cigar-smoking Vicious Vicki, who tosses DWG in ring & strips her to underwear; (VIDEO) Idol; Kowabunga d. Eddie by DQ when Sam Lowe runs in. Kowa creams Sam until Anthony/Doug attack and it's 4-on-1 until Dundee/Lawler save & Jerry rips Doug's toupee off; Lee/Harris d. Hall/Haynes; Gaylord/King/Maggs d. Twilight Zone/Shadow. DRAW.

(PORTLAND) - John Rambo d. Moondog Moretti; Ricky Santana d. Bobby Blair; Jonathan Holliday draw vs. Larry Oliver; (8-MAN) Steve Doll/Scott Peterson/Rip Oliver/Scott Norton d. Al Madril/Grappler/Equalizer/Santana; Doll d. Santana by DQ; SEGMENT: Don Owen orders one-match playoff w. Doll/Norton vs. Al & Ricky; FIESTA GARDEN: Madril proclaims Rip Oliver a has-been but Oliver slugs Madril & Grappler just before 8-man tag bout. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Rick Ford d. Hansen by DQ; DOOM d. New Fantastics but R&R Ex save when DOOM keeps beating after; WNN: Gordon Solie previews CLASH XII; Guererro d. Kyle; S. Boys d. Death Row/Johnson; LOUISVILLE SLUGGER: Cornette w. Flair; (6-MAN) Flair/Vicious/Arn Anderson d. T. Parker/Holly/Brad Batten but Dudes w. Attitudes save after. BOMB-PLUS ...all repeats of past syndie matches. Really dull.
[MAIN EVENT]: (Top Match) R&R Ex d. M Ex; DANGER ZONE: Paul E. w. Sting. DRAW.

(NWA/TBS) - [WCW]: R&R Ex d. Carr/Zan Panzer; Vicious d. Kenzie; (WRAPUP) Sting w. Scorpion interview; JYD d. Dutch Mantel; Flair d. Holly; S. Boys d. Rose/Joe Cezana. BOMB-PLUS.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Jim Ross, WCW: "Being a pro wrestling referee's like being a fire hydrant at a dog show." 2. Vince McMahon/Bobby Heenan, SUMMER SLAM FEVER: (VM) "Are you married?" (BH) "No, I'm not. Too eligible." 3. Heenan, SSF: "Friends of Hercules call him Herc. Some people are starting to call Roma jerk." 4. McMahon, SSF: "Herc & Jerk. That's pretty good...more like Heckle & Jeckle." 5. McMahon, SSF: "Slick handling communications? That's like 2 tin cans with a string in the middle." 6. Dutch Mantel, WWW, to Tony Schiavone: "You've never had a parking ticket? The difference between you & me is I don't pay mine." 7. Roddy Piper, WWF, on Rick Rude: "If he becomes champion, first thing he should do is get rid of Boobsie." 8. Piper, WWF, on Hogan: "Maybe one day, he can afford T-shirts without holes in them." 9. Jimmy Garvin, NWA PRO: "Hansen's not in the mood. And he doesn't have a headache, either." 10. Lance Russell, NWA PRO: "JYD, the most famous letters in the alphabet after ABC."

11. Piper, WWF: "SUMMER SLAM's going to be more than an event. It's a kitchen utensil." 12. Piper, WWF, on Sapphire: "Rumor has it she's been getting a lot of these gifts from Marion Barry." 13. Craig Johnson, USWA, on Angel of Death playing TAPS: "This is not THE LAWRENCE WELK SHOW. It's not even AMERICAN BANDSTAND." 14. Michael Hayes, NWA PRO: "Lance, you like dressing room gossip. You're just like an old woman. But you like those young women." 15. Boni Blackstone/Johnson, USWA: (BB) "There's a Reebok to the ribs." (CJ) "I wonder if it's a Pump." 16. Russell, NWA PRO: "Barry Horowitz is going to dislocate his shoulder trying to pat himself on the back." 17. Eddie Gilbert, WMC, on Doug's hood: "We're trying out a new flame-resistant mask in case Lawler tries to burn him." 18. Jerry Lawler, WMC, on Eddie: "He has bird legs. Maybe he can sing like a canary." 19. Eddie, WMC: "Bruno, you say we're your friends. Speak for yourself." 20. Bob Dow, ICW, on Equalizers: "It's hard for me to say Zip and Zap without saying doo-dah."

21. Chief Thundercloud, ICW: "You're a Volkswagen. I'm a Mack truck." 22. Dow, ICW, to Tony Rumble: "You're not exactly a rocket scientist." 23. Jim Ross, WCW: "When JYD goes to a restaurant, he doesn't ask for a menu, he asks for an estimate."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Bob Caudle, WCW, on Master Blasters & Maximum Overdrive: "Jim, I've never heard of any of these people!" Heenan, SSF, on Pat Tanaka: "He could kick Duggan like that & he might straighten his eye out."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Heenan, SSF: "Is that a burr haircut on Neidhart, or are those nerve ends?" 2. Blackstone, USWA: "Since when did Percival Pringle become an authority on beautiful young women?" 3. Lawler, WMC: "Where'd you guys (Gilberts/Anthony) learn to fight? Kentucky Fried Chicken?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. SWEET & SOUR (Sherri Martel on Sapphire). 2. THE LITTLE RASCALS (T. Long on R&R Ex). 3. PROVIDENCE PAEANS (Rude on Providence fans). 4. THE THREESOME OF WRESTLING (Craig Johnson on himself, Joe & Boni).

SEXIST REMARK - Joe Pedicino, USWA, after Jeannie Clarke is stripped: "Now, Craig, there is a dangerous pair."

BEST PICTURES - 1. SSF, Neidhart posting Darsow. 2. USWA, Angel of Death playing TAPS. 3. WMC, Doug Gilbert's headshaving. 4. WMC, Lawler ripping off Doug's toupee.

WORST PICTURES - 1. WMC, Tattoo-clad Vicki. 2. NWA PRO, Hansen's tobacco juice.

ENGLISH LESSONS - 1. Thunderbolt Patterson, WCW, on Sting: "He HAVE been through what you HAD to go through." 2. Patterson, WCW: "This is where conditioning COME in good." 3. Tommy Rich, NWA PRO: "I AIN'T never RAN from a fight." 4. Patterson, WCW, on JYD: "He KNOW what he's doing."

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Gordon Solie, PH: "...actions louder than words." 2. Bill Dundee, WMC: "...he who laughs last laughs longest." 3. Ken Resnick, LPWA: "...good for the goose is good for the gander."

BOO AWARDS - 1. Bruce Prichard, SSF, for remark: "Sgt. Slaughter is the greatest general since Brother General Saddam Hussein." This is not the time, even for a heel, to make such an analogy. 2. Vicious Vicki-DWG angle, WMC: Memphis may love it but Kim Anthony being stripped is as much a cliche as Horsemen-Dudes with Attitudes standoffs.

TUBE TALK

NWA in the Meadowlands drew 7,300 Friday night. The 30-minute Sting-Flair match drew big raves. The Steiners beat the Midnight Express for the U.S. tag team title, the first title change at a non-televised event since Keiiji Muto beat Sting for the NWA TV title last fall....R&R Ex and Tom Zenk booed roundly by the New Jersey fans. Terry Taylor drew a big pop but was destroyed by Stan Hansen.

Rip Oliver had a shot to win the Pacific NW title (Rip says for the 51st time) vs. Grappler on TV Sat. night.... Not even the distortion could have disguised Ole's voice as the Black Scoprion....Considering all the repeats, that may have been the worst POWER HOUR ever Friday night....WWF has gained a slot on Canada's TSN network...The LUCHA LIBRE show was not the last ever for Galavision but the last from Arena Coliseo....LPWA taped Tuesday night in Hammond IN with Chris Cruise debuting at the mike.

Late syndication ratings for the week ending Aug. 12: WWF 9.3 (251 stations), NWA 5.9 (171)....Joe Pedicino's new USWA hotline drew 456 calls Thursday, one day before it was scheduled to launch. The hotline was inadvertently advertised on ESPN's USWA LEGENDS series Thursday but programming didn't start until Friday....Skandor Akbar has been asked to go easy on revering Saddam Hussein in TV interviews, considering how volatile the Persian Gulf situation is....NWA PRO is forced on WPTY (Memphis' FOX affiliate) into head-to-head battle with the WMC live USWA show at 11 a.m. in three weeks. So, it's Lance vs. Lawler this fall in Memphis.

Monday night at Mid-South: Hospital elimination match with the same 6-man teams; a billed Snowman-Brickhouse Brown match designed to strip Snow of the USWA belt; Lee/Harris vs. Gaylord/Jarrett for the USWA tag title; a 19-man arachnaphobia battle royal with a 100-gallons-of-free gas fan contest. ....This week offered four WORST TV MATCH candidates. I'll let you figure them out.

ANOTHER LEGEND: Pat O'Connor's death a week and a half ago at 65 of liver cancer took another of the game's legends. His loss of the NWA world title to Buddy Rogers at Comiskey Park was the top gate attraction until the current WWF era. The last time I saw O'Connor compete was at the Atlanta City Auditorium in 1967 in an unsuccessful stab to regain the title from Gene Kiniski. It was a personal thrill to meet him at Nashville's WRESTLE WAR in 1989. I'll never forget the stunned expression on his and Lou Thesz's faces when they returned backstage and saw on the monitor their fellow judge of the Flair-Steamboat match, Terry Funk, attacking Flair.

BOOKER BOUNCES: A couple of promotions have had unsuccessful plays for the "book," of late, according to key insiders. In the USWA, Kevin Von Erich has reportedly been "missing in action," since attempting a power play the night of the Aug. 10 taping. As an "attitude adjuster," Kevin was forced to lose on the syndie match shown Saturday.

AND NUMBER TWO: We've been sworn not to even mention the promotion's name but you can probably guess. Two key insiders of one major promotion told MATWATCH the two top singles champions of the group made a stab for the circuit's book, citing lack of confidence in the current booker.

BLADE RUNNING?: Reports have Al Green, the former Bounty Hunter, being offered a role as The Blade Runner in the NWA. Green would reportedly do the "dirty work" for Sting & Luger.

SCORPION STUFF: The interview on TBS and syndication over the weekend with The Scorpion was Ole Anderson with electronically distorted voice. But another name has entered the speculation as a possible Scorpion: Dave Sheldon (Angel of Death), though many NWA insiders are still betting on Steve Keirn in the role. Yet, a source close to the promotion has told us The Scorpion may rotate among existing Horsemen. And then again, all of this may be wrong. Who cares?

SQUASHING THE ROOSTER?: You think Terry Taylor may not be missing The Red Rooster? Taylor is scheduled on booking sheets to be dumped by Big Van Vader around the horn in his early weeks in.

IWA NOTES: This week, in what is the final of the 13-week contract with SPORTS CHANNEL AMERICA, Larry Cameron faces Moondog Spot and Kevin Von Erich meets Jules Strongbow. One of the top matches is the Dean Malenko-Jim Backlund affair.

END OF LUCHA?: Announcer Miguel Linares announced on the Aug. 19 edition of LUCHA LIBRE was the final ever on Galavision, even though the show was still listed on schedules for this past Sunday.

MONSTER MEETING: One of the coming "monster" wrestlers was scheduled to have a meeting with Titan officials Friday and it could have ended in a signing.

HAIRLESS WONDER: Doug Gilbert lost the fall and his hair in the 6-man cage match in Memphis Aug. 20. About 2,500 were on hand.

OTHER ACTION: Eddie Marlin knocked out Sam Lowe in the first round of their boxing cage match at the Mid-South Coliseum, then Eddie Gilbert came out and challenged Marlin with the gloves. In another, the Dirty White Girl defeated Tessa, who was already expected to leave Memphis.

GREAT BRAWL: The Jeff Jarrett/Jeff Gaylord vs. Brian Lee/Don Harris tag match in Memphis was said to be a top-notch brawl which ended in a no contest.

NOT SO HOT: Joe Pedicino not happy with latest round of PRO WRESTLING '90 tapings in Alpharetta GA. Of course, not having the Gilberts as in the previous 4 weeks didn't help.

AT THE HOUSE: The Omni drew $71,000 Aug. 19 for the NWA, headlined by a Sting-Flair match and an El Gigante contest in which Jorge Gonzales, who was hugely over, actually demonstrated a few moves. Other recent NWA houses: Columbus GA ($23,000), Jacksonville FL ($63,000, its best in some time), St. Petersburg ($53,000) and Muscle Shoals AL ($13,000).

NEWSWEEK SAID IT: In a recent rundown of 900 numbers, NEWSWEEK magazine referred to the NWA WRESTLING HOTLINE as "mostly Jim Cornett(e)," the new voice of wrestling, rants about the latest events. But where's the Hulkster?"

BELATED LINE OF...: An unintentional strongest comment had to go to Bob Caudle on WCW two weeks ago when referring to the Nasty Boys, Maximum Overdrive and the Master Blasters, Bob---one of my all-time favorites---told Jim Ross, "Yeah, I've never heard of any of these people!"

IS HE OR ISN'T HE?: Herb Abrams, who indicates he'll start taping his new Universal Wrestling Federation Sept. 13 on the West Coast, has announced shows at the Anaheim Theatre and the L.A. Forum but our California correspondent Chris Crosby has checked and personnel at neither place know anything about any UWF. Crosby was told Abrams was not telling more "because you know how Vince and Turner are."

SLATER DOES IT: Last Thursday at the Tampa Sportatorium, Dick Slater defeated Ron Slinker in a lumberjack match, Steve Keirn held onto the Florida title over Dennis Knight and in a light heavyweight title match, Lou Perez beat Jim Backlund by DQ but didn't win the belt.

WPIX RATINGS: The first week of "customized" shows for WPIX in New York pushing the Meadowlands drew a 1.8 rating, then the next week, it jumped to a respectable 3.3. Then, there was that foulup leading to the pre-emption by the INCREDIBLE HULK.

GUARDIAN ANGEL: One of Paul E.'s upcoming segments on WPIX will include a skit on a New York subway with Lisa Silwa, erstwhile Guardian Angel. If that's not a duo...

RERUN HAVEN: I always wondered eventually what would happen when wrestling shows were forced into reruns. Last week's editions of AWA, Chicago Championship and Southeastern were all repeats. IWA was, too, but in TV TEMPO, we offered results of the show which was supposed to be seen.

PORTLAND NEWCOMERS: Headed in for Don Owen, in addition to Brad Anderson, are John Rambo, Steve Sawyer & Butch Masters.

RATINGS RAP

"FEVER" ROLLS TO TWO POWERHOUSE RATINGS

As detailed on Page 3, the two airings of SUMMER SLAM FEVER dominated the Nielsen cable ratings for the week ending Aug. 20, though two NWA series posted strong outings.

The 3.7 (Monday) and 3.6 (Sunday) ratings both bordered on two million homes but the two FEVER nights were seen in a combined 3.9 million homes.

NWA MAIN EVENT scored a strong 3 rating and 6.7 per cent share of audience to top the two NWA shows (POWER HOUR was pre-empted). Buoyed by a strong 3.6/9.9 lead-in from the movie BAD BOYS, WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING posted a 2.9/7.1, which left Ole Anderson with a 2.7/6.8 average for his first full quarter at the helm of WCW.

Interestingly, the Chuck Norris film on TBS in the usual POWER HOUR slot doubled the previous week's PH with a 3.2 rating. A trend to watch will be whether the insertion of Paul E. Dangerously as co-host with some probable outrageous wraparounds can lift the ratings above what has recently been predominantly repeat wrestling material on PH.

CABLE

Week Ending Aug. 20	Rating	Share	Total Homes
WWF SUMMER SLAM FEVER (USA 8/20)	3.7	6.0	1.97 million
WWF SUMMER SLAM FEVER (USA 8/19)	3.6	5.9	1.93 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 8/19)	3.0	6.7	1.68 million
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 8/18)	2.9	7.1	1.62 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 8/19)	2.3	6.5	1.24 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (R) (TBS 8/18)	0.7	6.9	392,000

(SPECIAL NOTE: Syndication ratings were not available.)

MATWATCH NEWSLINE (901) 664-9246

Please leave news or information on the answering machine after you hear the jingle.

MATWATCH SHOPPERS NETWORK

PRO WRESTLING REVIEW is a popular newsletter for Philadelphia area fans, published by ALAN RASKIN. Alan also offers a PRO WRESTLING RAPLINE (215) 677-1187. Call the number and find out how to subscribe to REVIEW and get information on Alan's extensive ring merchandise.

FLASHBACK, a new monthly newsletter for fans of TV shows (not just wrestling shows) of the 1950s and 1960s will be published the first week in September. A free sample is available for the asking from FLASHBACK, 16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION, INC. has its Christmas catalogue of merchandise available, including RMWA toothbrushes, jar openers, sewing kits, address books, litter bags and sports bottles. For a price list, write to: RMWA at 1515 SOUTH CLERMONT ST., DENVER CO 80222-3805.

(Send all SHOPPERS NETWORK requests to the regular MATWATCH address and please print clearly.)

MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

(U.S./CANADA) $5 for 5 issues, $10 for 11 issues, $15 for 16 issues.

(OVERSEAS) $9 for 5 issues, $18 for 11 issues, $27 for 16 issues.

(GIFT OFFER) You receive one free issue for every 5-issue set of MATWATCH you give. The same applies for any subscription we get on your recommendation.

CHECK, CASH or MONEY ORDER to: MATWATCH, 16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305.

NAME______________________________________

ADDRESS______________________________________

CITY/STATE/ZIP______________________________________

IF GIFT, GIFT FROM______________________________________

MATWATCH
16 ROBIN HOOD LANE
JACKSON TN 38305

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JACKSON TN
PERMIT NO. 50

David Skolnick
90 W. Main St. #5
Governeur, NY 13642
11/19/90

FIRST CLASS MAIL